

Appl. No. 10/697,223
Amdt. dated January 20, 2005
Reply to Office Action of August 23, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): For use in an electrical junction box, a multi-pole electrical connector comprising:

- (a) an insulating housing having a plurality of conductor ports therein,
- (b) a plurality of busses, electrically insulated from each other and mounted within said housing, each of said busses formed of two opposing walls of conductive material, each terminating at an edge,
- (c) a plurality of wells, each for receiving an electrical conductor, formed between said opposing walls, each of said wells extending from between said walls to an edge of said walls and positioned in registration with said conductor ports,
- (d) each of said wells having a flared portion at said edge, the flared portion of each well forming a funnel shaped opening into the respective well, and
- (e) each of said flared portions extending from an edge of said walls into a

corresponding well and terminating within said well and including a pair of opposed locking tabs extending therefrom into said well for engaging an electrical conductor extending into said well.

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (currently amended): The multi-pole electrical connector of Claim 5 wherein each of said ~~flared portions includes a pair of opposed locking tabs extending therefrom into said well for engaging an electrical conductor extending into said well, each of said tabs including~~ includes an arcuate locking tip.

Claim 8 (currently amended): For use in an electrical junction box, a multi-pole electrical connector comprising:

- (a) an insulating housing having a plurality of conductor ports therein,
- (b) a plurality of busses, electrically insulated from each other and mounted within said housing, each of said busses formed of a single sheet of conductive material formed into a U-shape to provide two opposing walls each terminating in an edge,
- (c) a plurality of wells, each for receiving an electrical conductor, formed between said opposing walls, each of said wells extending from between said walls to an

edge of said walls and positioned in registration with said conductor ports,

(d) each of said wells having a flared portion at said edge, the flared portion of each well forming a funnel shaped opening into the respective well, ~~and~~

(e) each of said flared portions extending from an edge of said walls into a corresponding well and terminating within said well and including a pair of opposed locking tabs extending therefrom into said well for engaging an electrical conductor extending into said well.

Claim 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (currently amended): The multi-pole electrical connector of Claim 8 wherein each of said ~~flared portions includes a pair of opposed locking tabs extending therefrom into said well for engaging an electrical conductor extending into said well, each of said tabs including~~ includes an arcuate locking tip.

Claim 11 (currently amended): An electrical buss for use in a multi-pole connector comprising:

(a) two opposing walls formed of conductive material, each terminating at an edge,

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(b) a plurality of wells, each for receiving an electrical conductor, formed between said opposing walls, each of said wells extending from between said walls to an edge of said walls,

(c) each of said wells having a flared portion at said edge, the flared portion of each well forming a funnel shaped opening into the respective well, ~~and~~

(d) each of said flared portions extending from an edge of said walls into a corresponding well and terminating within said well a pair of opposed locking tabs extending therefrom into said well for engaging an electrical conductor extending into said well.

Claim 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (currently amended): The electrical buss of Claim 11 wherein each of said ~~flared portions includes a pair of opposed locking tabs extending therefrom into said well for engaging an electrical conductor extending into said well, each of said tabs including~~ includes an arcuate locking tip.

Claim 14 (currently amended): An electrical buss for use in a multi-pole connector comprising:

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- (a) a single sheet of conductive material formed into U-shape to provide two opposing walls each terminating at an edge,
- (b) a plurality of wells, each for receiving an electrical conductor, formed between said opposing walls, each of said wells extending from between said walls to an edge of said walls,
- (c) each of said wells having a flared portion at said edge, the flared portion of each well forming a funnel shaped opening into the respective well, ~~and~~
- (d) each of said flared portions extending from an edge of said walls into a corresponding well and terminating within said well and including a pair of opposed locking tabs extending therefrom into said well for engaging an electrical conductor extending into said well.

Claim 15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (currently amended): The electrical buss of Claim 14 wherein each of said flared portions ~~includes a pair of opposed locking tabs extending therefrom into said well for engaging an electrical conductor extending into said well, each of said tabs including~~ includes an arcuate locking tip.